# CASE

OF

## *CHARLES MACKLIN*, Comedian.

I BEG leave humbly to make this Addreſs to the Publick; reflecting, notwithſtanding my own Inſignificancy, that Perſons of the higheſt Rank have frequently paid a regard to the Theatre; And condeſcended, not only to applaud the Merit, but ſometimes to look down upon the Diſtreſs, of an Actor.

IT is from hence, and in order to vindicate myſelf from many injurious Aſperſions, levelled againſt me, without any Foundation in Fact or Equity, that I preſume to exhibit a ſhort State of the preſent Conteſt between Mr. *Garrick* and myſelf.

AT the Beginning of the laſt Seaſon, Mr. *Garrick* and I enter'd into a ſtrict Friendſhip together, and mutually *engaged* to adhere to each other, and not to act upon ſeparate Stages.——Towards the End of the Seaſon, Mr. *Garrick*, upon ſome Diſguſt at the Manager, publickly proteſted that he never would act again under him; and accordingly he deſiſted from Acting for about three Weeks together in *May* laſt.——At this time, I was entering upon a Treaty with Mr. *Fleetwood* for the preſent Seaſon, and was offered the ſame Salary and Advantages as I received for the laſt, with an Advancement of 200 *l.* Mr. *Fleetwood* preſſing me to conclude the Agreement, which I declined, out of a ſtrict Regard to my *Engagement* with Mr. *Garrick*.

SOON afterwards it was reported, that Mr. *Quin* and Mr. *Garrick* were entering into an Agreement to act together: Upon which, Mr. *Fleetwood* urged me again to engage myſelf to him; But when I communicated this to Mr. *Garrick*, he inſiſted, that I ſhould refuſe, upon any Terms whatever, to enter into any Engagement.

THE intended Agreement between Mr. *Quin* and Mr. *Garrick* being afterwards dropp'd, Mr. *Garrick* told me, that he was determined to take the Theatre in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*; And deſired me to go in his Name to Mr. *Rich*, to treat for that Houſe; The Propoſals for which were delivered to Mr. *Rich* in Mr. *Garrick's own Writing*.——But this Scheme likewiſe fail'd; As Mr. *Garrick* would be tyed to the Houſe only for one Year certain.

AFTER theſe Projects and Diſappointments, when I enquired of Mr. *Garrick* how we were to proceed, he ſolemnly declared and proteſted to me upon every occaſion, that he would *never deſert me*; but that we ſhould ſhare our Theatrical Fortunes together, according to the Proportion we held under Mr. *Fleetwood*; frequently telling me, that at the worſt we might both go to *Ireland*, and be able to gain there, very nearly as much, as we had received from the Manager.

THIS was to be our *Dernier Reſort*, according to Mr. *Garrick*'s own frequent Declaration.——After which, I beg leave to ſubmit it to the Publick, whether I have not cauſe to complain, if it be true, as he has declared to me himſelf, that he has entered into Engagements with Mr. *Fleetwood*, without my Knowledge or Conſent; And upon being admitted *himſelf*, has agreed that *I* ſhall abſolutely be excluded from the Theatre.

THIS is heightned with great Cruelty, by a Charge which is levell'd againſt me, of *Ingratitude*; A Crime, which I have the utmoſt abhorrence of, and am ſenſibly affected with the bare Imputation of it; But I have not apprehended, becauſe a Gentleman has acted towards me with Humanity in my Diſtreſs, that therefore he has an abſolute Right over me, and to load me with Oppreſſion, as long as I live:——At the ſame time I bear, and ſhall always continue to bear, a thankful Remembrance of all Mr. *Fleetwood*'s Favours upon that melancholy Occaſion.

NOTHING but a juſt Deteſtation of the Sin of *Ingratitude*, and a paſſionate Deſire to clear myſelf from it, could induce me to mention a Circumſtance ſo ſhocking to myſelf:——It has been extremely ungenerous in ſome Perſons, to propagate this cruel Imputation againſt me, and publickly to declare it the real Foundation, upon which I am to be abſolutely deprived of my Livelihood:——When the Truth is, that not my Propenſity to *Ingratitude*, but a contrary Principle, my *Steadineſs* and *Attachment* to all my *Obligations*, has made me the Mark of Severity.

THAT

THAT I long acted with particular Zeal to Mr. *Fleetwood*, under a Series of ſubſequent Oppreſſions, may ſhortly appear, in a Letter which it is my Intention to publiſh upon this Subject. I do ſolemnly aver, in this Place, that I was not the *Ringleader* of this Seceſſion from Mr. *Fleetwood*, But concurred in it merely by the Influence of Mr. *Garrick*.

IN my preſent Situation, Mr. *Garrick*, under pretence of a *tender* Feeling for my Misfortune, has thought fit to make me the following injurious Propoſal; That *I ſhould receive 6 l. per Week, Playhouſe Pay, out of* his Pocket; *And that my Wife ſhould be admitted into Mr.* Rich's *Theatre at 3 l. per Week, Playhouſe Pay.* Upon which Terms he has the Weakneſs to imagine, that he acts like a Man of *Integrity*, and that I have no cauſe left of Complaint.———But not to enter into the Fallacy and enſnaring Conditions of theſe Propoſals, (which are only for this Seaſon, and are calculated to exclude me for ever from the Theatre,) they carry this evident Baſeneſs in their Front; That their Author, inſtead of *adhering* to his Engagements, wilfully *breaks* them; and inſtead of taking *Shame* to himſelf for his *Treachery*, *inſolently* aſſumes the Air of *Generoſity*, to the Man he *betrays*.

BUT that my Deſire of accepting any reaſonable Terms may clearly appear, I beg leave to declare, That I ſhall thankfully receive from Mr. *Fleetwood*, *Three Fourths* of the ſame weekly Salary for myſelf and my Wife, for the Remainder of this Seaſon, (with our Benefits) which we had the laſt Seaſon; Or whatever other Terms ſhall be judg'd to be reaſonable, by any three impartial Gentlemen.

THE foregoing is a juſt Detail of Mr. *Garrick*'s Conduct, which I preſume he will not venture to deny, as he has acknowledg'd moſt of the Particulars to Gentlemen of Honour and Veracity.

AND now I humbly ſubmit my Caſe to the Public; hoping that a Deſire to vindicate myſelf from cruel Aſperſions, and to preſerve that Portion of their Favour, which they have honoured me with, will never be deem'd unbecoming of an Actor; who has made it his *Ambition*, to obtain *their* Applauſe, and thought it his *Duty* to conſider himſelf as *their* Servant.

*Dec.* 5, 1743. Charles Macklin.

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